

DEF. DOC. #1120

DECLARATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INFORMATION BUREAU,

August 14, 1937

It is with feelings of intense horror and distress that the Japanese nation has learned the news of the indiscriminate bombing of Shanghai by the Chinese air force. When it was learned that the Chinese Government had warned all foreigners, except Japanese, to evacuate the Honkew area, the Japanese forces certainly were prepared for an attack. They were ready to fulfill their duty and the mission they had been entrusted with -- to protect the lives and the property of Japanese residing legally and peacefully on Chinese soil -- and to pursue their cooperation with the forces of the friendly Powers in keeping Shanghai free from the insecurity and disorder rampant in other parts of China.

Time and again, the Japanese have had the bitter experience of seeing the Chinese soldiers, roused to fierce anti-foreign frenzy, running out of hand. The Boxer Rebellion, and nearer to our times, the Nanking and Tsinau outrages, had warned us of what to expect when foreign power was not there to prevent them from playing their will on helpless foreign victims.

We had hoped that the much-vaunted "modern" troops of the Nanking Government would show a fuller measure of discipline, but could not refrain from expressing our misgivings that they might still run true to pattern, especially as we knew how the flame of anti-Japanese sentiments was being fanned by both the Chinese fascists and their recent allies, the agents of the

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Comintern. Our fears, alas, were but too well-founded. We were prepared to repulse onslaughts on our forces, but truly we were not prepared to witness the massacre of innocent Chinese refugees by Chinese bombs, the wanton destruction of foreign property that had helped to build the wealth of China, the slaughter of the foreign friends of the Chinese people by airplanes of the Chinese Government.

Consternation and sorrow is in the hearts of the Japanese people -- sorrow and also a rightful indignation for the attempt to wreck our helpless brethren of Shanghai, -- amongst whom were thousands of refugees driven from their homes on the Upper Yangtze River, -- fanatic fury in possession of modern <sup>means</sup> of destruction.

The world will recognize that Japan has shown the greatest restraint and moderation in the recent events. She had done her utmost to minimize the effects of untoward happenings, but on each occasion, her efforts have been thwarted by the prejudiced and disorderly attitude of the Chinese. Lukowchiao was practically settled the next day. Nanking interfered. The Chinese troops got out of hand. The Hungjao affair was being discussed. Now Nanking troops enter Shanghai and her planes bomb the Settlement.

Japan stands for order. She will insist on the protection of her citizen's legitimate rights. She is conscious of her duty to her friends and to those who put their trust in her. Her troops, if necessary, will fight for it reluctantly but without flinching.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Declaration by the Director of the Information Bureau, August 14, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,  
on this 8th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi  
Signature of Official

Witness: /s/ K. Urabe

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情報部長發表（千九百三十七年八月十四日附）

日本國民ハ支那空軍ニヨル上海無差別爆撃ノ報ヲ知ルニ及ンデ戰慄ト焦慮ノ念ニ驅立テラレタノデアル。是ニ支那政府ガ日本人ヲ除ク全外國人ニ對シ虹口地區ヨリ撤退スベク警告ヲ發シタコトヲ知ツタ時日本軍ハ襲撃ニ對シ確乎タル覺悟ヲ爲シタ。彼等ハ支那領土ニ於イテ合法的且平和ナ生活ヲシテキル日本居留民ノ生命財産ヲ保護スベク托サレテキル義務並ニ使命ヲ果スベク又友好關係ト共ニ支那ノ他地方ニ莫ル不安定、無秩序カラ上海ヲ守ル爲協力ヲ續行スル覺悟ガ出來テキタ日本國民ハ再三再四支那軍ガ激シイ排外的狂氣ニ驅ラレ手ニ餘ルノヲ見タ昔イ經國ヲ有シテキル、北清事變近クハ南京及濟南暴行事件ハ無寧ノ外國人ニ對シテ彼等ノ勝手ナル振舞ヲ爲スコトヲ防止スル爲ノ外國部隊ガ存在シナイトキ如何ナル事態ガ發生スルカ警告ヲ與ヘルモノデアツタ。

我等ハ南京政府自慢ノ「近代軍」ガヨリ高度ノ軍紀ヲ示スベキヲ希望

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シタノデアルガ其ノ名ニ恥ヂザルヤウ行動スルコトニ對シ懸念セザルヲ得ナカツタ。殊ニ其ノ念ヲ深クシタノハ支那フアシスト及ビ彼等ノ新ラシイ味方デアル國際共產黨代行者ニヨリ如何ニ反日感情ノ煽ガ煽ラレツツアツタカヲ知ルガ爲デアル。噫我等ノ危惧ノ念ハ餘リニモ根柢ノ深イモノデアツタ、我等ハ救軍ニ對スル急進ヲ退スベキ用意ハアツタガ文部知事ニヨル罪ナキ文部逃避民ノ殺戮、支那ノ官ヲ築キ上ゲル上ニ貢獻シタ外國財産ノ亂暴ナ破壊、文部政府ノ航空機ニヨル支那民衆ノ外國人友人ノ殺害ヲ目撃スルトハ夢ニモ思ハナカツタ。日本國民ノ胸中ニハ意外ト悲嘆ノ感ガアルノミ——揚子江上流ノ住家ヲ迫ハレタ何千ノ避難民ヲ含ム上海ノ我同胞ヲ破滅ニ導カントシタタクラミニ對シテハ悲シミト義憤ノ念ニ燃ヘ、近代の破壊力ヲ有スルガ故ニ激シイ怒リニ驅立ツ。

世人ハ日本ガ最近ノ事件ニ於テ最大ノ自肅自訓ヲ示シタコトヲ認メルデアラウ。厄介ナ出來事ヲ最少限度ニ喰止メルベク凡ユル手段ヲ盡シガ常ニ其ノ努力ハ支那側ノ偏見的無秩序ナ態度ニヨリ妨ゲラレテ來タ

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盧溝橋ハ事實上翌日解決シタ。然シ南京ガ之レヲ妨ゲタノデアル。  
支那兵ガ統帥出來ナクナツテキタ。虹橋事件ハ檢討由デアツタガ今ヤ  
南京軍ハ上海ニ入り其ノ歡迎極ハ世界ヲ驚愕スルニ及ンダ  
日本ハ秩序ノ爲ニ立ツ。日本ハ其ノ市民ノ正常ナル權利ノ保障ヲ主張  
スル。日本ハ其ノ友並ニ日本ヲ信頼スル者ニ對スル其ノ義務ヲ自覺ス  
ル。必斯アラバ日本ハ敢テ後セズトモ然モ躊躇スルコトナク之ノ戸ニ開  
フデアラウ。